

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06425 152103Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 SY-05 MCT-01 FBO-02 /061 W

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O R 152040Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9106

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: CONTINUED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

1. STUDENTS AGAIN TOOK TO THE STREETS TODAY TO PROTEST PRICE INCREASES. AT NOON A REPORTED 2,500 STUDENTS HAD CONVERGED ON SANTA ANA PLAZA. BY 1:30 P.M. GATHERING HAD DEGENERATED INTO A CHAOTIC SERIES OF CONFRONTATIONS AMONG SMALL GROUPS OF STUDENTS, AND IN SOME CASES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN THE AREA BETWEEN PLAZA PORRAS AND SANTA ANA PLAZA. (AS IN ALL PREVIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS THIS WEEK, A RELATIVELY SMALL AREA OF DOWNTOWN PANAMA IS AFFECTED.) AT LEAST ONE CAR HAS BEEN OVERTURNED.

2. MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE CITY, BUT EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (ABOUT 50) JOINED THE DEMONSTRATORS EARLIER THIS MORNING. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT RADICAL GROUPS (SPECIFICALLY FER AND LIGA SOCIALISTA REVOLUCIONARIA) IN THE CITY'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE UNIVERSITY ARE TRYING TO PROLONG AND INTENSIFY STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. THE NATIONAL GUARD IS STILL HOLDING TO ITS POLICY OF NOT HURTING STUDENTS EVEN WHEN

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PROVOKED BY SUCH INCIDENTS AS ROCK THROWING.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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